

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A radially self-expanding stent for implantation in a body passage comprises first and second sets of mutually counter-rotating metallic filaments which are braided together and define a tubular stent body having two ends which is mechanically biased towards a first radially expanded configuration in which it is unconstrained by externally applied forces and can be retained in a second radially compressed configuration, and in which some or all of the filament ends at the ends of the body are fixed together in pairs each consisting of counter-rotating filaments by placing the filaments over one another and placing them adjacent to and substantially parallel to one another and further comprising a join at each end fixing to retain the ends of the filaments in contact with one another, wherein each pair of filament ends is arranged as two substantially straight, coplanar lines that are joined at their ends.

2. (original): A stent according to claim 1, wherein the fixed ends are shaped or heat treated to urge the respective filaments to a position in which they are biased out of alignment with the adjacent filament to which they are connected and cross over one another.

3. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a welding softens the metal such that it forms a globule before resolidifying to form a bead.

4. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each filament end is welded to an adjacent filament end.

5. (currently amended): ~~A stent according to claim 1 or 2~~A radially self-expanding stent for implantation in a body passage comprises first and second sets of mutually counter-rotating metallic filaments which are braided together and define a tubular stent body having two ends which is mechanically biased towards a first radially expanded configuration in which it is unconstrained by externally applied forces and can be retained in a second radially compressed configuration, and in which some or all of the filament ends at the ends of the body are fixed together in pairs each consisting of counter-rotating filaments by placing the filaments over one another and placing them adjacent to and substantially parallel to one another and further comprising a join at each end fixing to retain the ends of the filaments in contact with one another, wherein some but not all of the filament ends are welded.

6. (original): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the join generally has a diameter of at least 1.2 times that of the diameter of the filament.

7. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the diameter of the join is no more than 3 times the diameter of the filament.

8. (currently amended): A stent according to claim 5, wherein at least some of the joins provide a shoulder in a rearward axial direction.

9. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein, in its fully unloaded conformation the angle α between filaments is less than 90° .

10. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the angle at which the filaments are joined to one another is in the range 0° to 15° .

Jeremy Dennis BARTLETT
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11. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the filaments bend outwardly towards the join, the angle at which they bend increasing as the filaments extend towards the join.

12. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the diameter of the join is less than 2.5 times the diameter of the filament.

13. (canceled).